1-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) A vertebral implant device for interposition between two vertebral bodies, the device comprising:

an outer body;

an inner body, wherein the outer body includes at least one slot and the inner body includes at least one tab, and wherein the tab movably engages the slot; and

a core member positioned between the outer body and the inner body,

wherein the outer body is movably engaged with the inner body and wherein responsive to a load applied to the device, the outer and inner body at least partially compress the core member.

5. (Original) The vertebral implant device of claim 4 wherein the outer body comprises a chamber for housing the core member.

6. (Original) The vertebral implant device of claim 5 wherein the inner body comprises a shaft extending at least partially into the chamber.

7. (Original) The vertebral implant device of claim 6 wherein responsive to the load applied to the device, the shaft slidably advances into the chamber causing the at least partial compression of the core member.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) The vertebral implant device of claim 4 further comprising a longitudinal axis, wherein the slot extends longitudinally along the outer body and the tab translates within the slot for movably engaging the outer and inner bodies.

10. (Previously Presented) The vertebral implant device of claim 4 wherein the tab prevents the inner body from disengaging the outer body.

11. (Original) The vertebral implant device of claim 4 wherein the outer body and inner body each comprise a cavity for containing bone growth promoting material.

12. (Original) The vertebral implant device of claim 11 wherein the outer body and inner body each comprise one or more apertures in communication with the cavity.

13. (Original) The vertebral implant device of claim 4 wherein the outer body includes a longitudinal axis and an end portion extending at a non-perpendicular angle with respect to the longitudinal axis.

14. (Original) The vertebral implant device of claim 4 wherein the inner body includes a longitudinal axis and an end portion extending at a non-perpendicular angle with respect to the longitudinal axis.

15. (Original) The vertebral implant device of claim 4 wherein the outer body and the inner body each comprise surface roughening extending toward the corresponding vertebral bodies.

16. (Original) The vertebral implant device of claim 4 wherein the device includes a substantially oval cylindrical cross-section.

17. (Original) The vertebral implant device of claim 4 wherein the core member comprises one or more compartments.

18. (Original) The vertebral implant device of claim 4 wherein the core member comprises an elastomer.

19. (Original) The vertebral implant device of claim 18 wherein the elastomer comprises polyurethane.

20. (Original) The vertebral implant device of claim 18 wherein the elastomer comprises silicone.

21. (Original) The vertebral implant device of claim 18 wherein the elastomer comprises a copolymer of polyurethane and silicone.

22. (Original) The vertebral implant device of claim 18 wherein the elastomer comprises polyolefin rubber.

23. (Original) The vertebral implant device of claim 4 wherein the core member comprises a hydrogel.

24. (Original) The vertebral implant device of claim 23 wherein the hydrogel comprises a polyvinyl alcohol hydrogel.

25. (Original) The vertebral implant device of claim 23 wherein the hydrogel comprises a polyacrylonitrile-based hydrogel.

26. (Original) The vertebral implant device of claim 23 wherein the hydrogel comprises a polyacrylic-based hydrogel.

27. (Original) The vertebral implant device of claim 23 wherein the hydrogel comprises a polyurethane-based hydrogel.

28. (Original) The vertebral implant device of claim 4 wherein the core member comprises one or more polymers.

29. (Original) The vertebral implant device of claim 4 wherein the core member comprises one or more surface features for altering the response of the core member to the at least partial compression.

30. (Original) The vertebral implant device of claim 4 wherein the core member comprises one or more subsurface features for altering the response of the core member to the at least partial compression.

31-39. (Cancelled)

40. (Previously Presented) A method for assembling modular members of a vertebral implant device, the method comprising:

providing at least one outer member with a cavity, at least one inner member with a shaft, and at least one core member;

inserting the at least one core member into the cavity;

inserting the shaft into the cavity to retain the at least one core, wherein the at least one outer member is movably engaged with the at least one inner member; and

inserting a tab into an elongated slot to limit the movable engagement of the at least one outer member with respect to the at least one inner member.

41. (Original) The method of claim 40 further comprising providing a plurality of core members.

42. (Original) The method of claim 40 further comprising providing a plurality of inner members.

43. (Original) The method of claim 40 further comprising providing a plurality of outer members.

44. (Original) The method of claim 40 wherein the assembly of the modular members occurs inside a surgical arena.

45. (Original) The method of claim 40 wherein the assembly of the modular members occurs in a factory.